



## Troopers meet Leprechauns

Visiting ball teams claim wins over hosts

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# Fort Riley Post

It's more 'Nunsense'

Little theater group hams it up with musical comedy about the Little Sisters of Hoboken

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Wednesday, November 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 47

## TV show's staff to film special

### Staff report

"Best of America by Horseback," a television show seen on RFD and Direct TV, will be filming on post Nov. 26 through Dec. 1.

The show's staff plans to shoot a holiday special honoring Fort Riley Soldiers and families. The special will be filmed at 4 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Soldier and Family Support Center and aired before the Christmas holiday.

Several country western and bluegrass performers are scheduled to entertain during the special.

Soldiers are encouraged to attend with their families for this 1 1/2-hour event. As part of the show, the TV staff will be videotaping training, Operation Santa Claus activities, dining facilities, post ceremonies, the military and civilian stables and a retreat ceremony as well as visit wounded in the hospital.

An additional show will highlight the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard in an upcoming feature.

## Around The Army

### Fort Belvoir:

The Belvoir Eagle reported Nov. 17 that Fort Belvoir commissary patrons who write returned checks to the store will have check writing privileges suspended for 60 days at commissaries worldwide.

The policy is a part of the Defense Commissary Agency's Return Check Program and went into effect at the Fort Belvoir store in October.

Non-sufficient funds checks are now routed to a processing site that specializes in returned check management. The contractor that operates the site will attempt to collect the returned check from the check writer's bank. The 60-day suspension begins once the returned check is sent to the contractor.

If the business is unable to obtain the funds, the check is forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or the U.S. Treasury Department for collection.

For more on this story and other Fort Belvoir, Ia., news, visit [www.belvoireagle.com/](http://www.belvoireagle.com/) on the Web.

### Leavenworth:

The Lamp reported Nov. 18 that, beginning in February 2006, Fort Leavenworth will host a second class of students for the Command and General Staff Officer Course. The course will run through Dec. 15, 2006, and overlap with the traditional CGSOC calendar.

For at least the next two years, the second class will be staggered alongside the primary CGSOC cycle to increase the number of wartime CGSOC graduates without removing needed personnel from forward units.

The first off-cycle class, officially the class of 2006-02, will have fewer students, 251 total, and will include 26 international students and 40 sister-service officers.

For more on this story and other Fort Leavenworth, Kan., news, visit [www.fleavenworth-lamp.com/](http://www.fleavenworth-lamp.com/) on the Web.

# Dining hall named region's best

By Anna Perry  
19th PAD

The Main Post a la carte Dining Facility is the best in its category in the Northwest Region, Installation Management Agency. Col. Lee Staab, assistant division commander for support, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), presented the regional Philip A. Connelly Award to the dining facility's staff Nov. 18.

"It is a pleasure for me to recognize individuals who take care of Soldiers on a daily basis," Staab said. "They work hard to provide nutritious meals for the troops."

The facility competed with other Northwest Region installations, including Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort McCoy, Wis.

The facilities were evaluated on food preparation, sanitation, building appearance and administrative quality.

Doris Fontimayor, a manager/clerk for the dining facility, said the diligent work the staff

members put into preparing for the contest is the same and they display every day.

"We are extremely dedicated," she said. "Many of us have worked together for years."

The dining facility has been nominated by IMA to be evaluated Nov. 30 in the large dining facility category of the annual Connelly award program for

excellence in the Army food program.

The facility will compete with Department of the Army installations worldwide.

"They've already done an excellent job," said Chief Warrant Officer Julius Thomas, installation food program manager, about the dining facility staff. "They just need to keep doing what they do."

# More to do



Lt. Col. Robert Weaver (left), commander of the 610th BSB, 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div., briefs Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (right), commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, on progress being made with the relocatable buildings his unit will man once they are complete. Accompanying Weaver on the tour are (left to right) Deb Porter, Army Corps of Engineers; battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields; Craig Grosser, Army Corps of Engineers; Mike Goreham, Fort Riley master planner; and Julie Poyser, Directorate of Public Works.

## New support unit quadruples resources

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Combat support services more than quadruple in size for the Army's new brigades, such as 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, standing up at Fort Riley.

The 610th Brigade Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert W. Weaver and forming with the 4th Bde., will field an authorized 870 Soldiers. Older support

battalions contained about 190 Soldiers, Weaver said.

The Army's expanded mission for a brigade support battalion required a growth in people and services. Much of the support service formerly provided at higher levels of command will now be done within the brigade, using the 610th Support Bn's resources, Weaver explained.

Those resources fall into the organization of a headquarters staff, distribution company, field maintenance company,

medical company and forward support companies assigned to each of other four battalions in the light infantry brigade.

A distribution company basically hauls whatever the brigade needs, such as supplies, people, ammunition, fuel and water, Weaver said. It uses a variety of vehicles, ranging from "Humvees" to HEMTTs (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks).

See Support battalion, Page 3

# Senate passes funding report

\$100.9 million earmarked for Fort Riley

By Molly Mueller  
Press secretary

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate included \$100.9 million in funding for Fort Riley in its fiscal year 2006 funding for military construction and Veterans Affairs.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced passage of the fiscal year 2006 Military Construction Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Conference Report containing construction projects in Kansas.

Appropriations approved for Fort Riley included \$5.5 million for a deployment facility and ramp expansion, \$17.5 million for a digital multipurpose range complex, \$4.6 million for a deployment support facility, \$6.3 million for an alert holding area and \$67 million for family housing privatization.

Other approved funding included \$42.6 million for Phase III of the Command and General Staff College's new Lewis and Clark Instructional Facility at Fort Leavenworth; \$15.8 million for a hydrant fuel system and \$699,000 for improvements to family housing at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita; \$5.6 million for an Army National Guard Readiness Center in Pittsburg; and \$6.3 million for Phase I of the New Century Army Reserve Center in

See Funding, Page 2

# Junior officers test mettle

## Competition honors hero of World War II

By Benjamin Saine  
1st Bn., 16th Inf.

A group of men dressed in full PT gear stood in the formation in the darkness. They knew the day would be long, but they didn't know just how long. The start of the 1st Lt. Monteith competition Oct. 26 and 27 was about to begin.

To lead from the front, a leader must be in the front, so Army philosophy states. That doesn't always happen. So, to test his lieutenants, Lt. Col. Frank Zachar, commander of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, devised a multi-day competition named in honor of 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith.

Monteith earned the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty June 6, 1944, near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. His leadership on the beaches of Normandy serves as an example of true selfless leadership by a junior officer.

The battalion's competition would test the lieutenants' physical, technical, tactical and mental abilities. It included an Army Physical Fitness Test, a six-mile foot march in full combat gear, several marksmanship tasks, various technical tasks, a written exam focusing on weapons capabilities, a four- to six-mile cross-

country movement using land-navigational skills, a tactical problem and a two-page written essay.

After a full day of competition, the battalion's lieutenants finished at the state's First Territorial Capitol on Fort Riley. The remainder of the battalion's officers waited there to greet the lieutenants as they finished.

Once all lieutenants had finished the last leg of the race, the battalion officers moved to a local restaurant to conclude the day.

Competition took place in three major categories for scoring and judging purposes: shoot-

See Lieutenants, Page 2

# Lieutenant's murder hearing concludes

By Stephanie Perrin  
Media Relations Officer

Two consecutive days of testimonies ended Nov. 17 in a Patton Hall courtroom and 2nd Lt. Erick Anderson now waits for a decision on whether he will be tried by court martial following the Article 32 hearing.

Anderson has been charged with two specifications of conspiracy to commit murder, two specifications of murder, dereliction of duty, making a false official statement and two specifications of conduct unbecoming of an officer.

The charges stem from two separate incidents that occurred

while Anderson was deployed to Iraq as a platoon leader for Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

In one incident, a severely wounded and burned Iraqi teen was shot Aug. 18, 2004, by Soldiers under Anderson's command.

In the second incident, an Iraqi man was shot Nov. 28 by one of Anderson's Soldiers during an operation that uncovered an AK47 hidden in the closet of a building being searched.

The Article 32 investigating officer will review the written statements and sworn testimonies of witnesses to determine whether there is enough evidence to recommend conducting a court martial.





## Post news in brief

### EO staff seeks participants

The Fort Riley Equal Opportunity Office staff is looking for individuals to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Jan. 11 at Riley's Conference Center. Talent being sought includes poetry, singing and dancing.

Anyone interested in participating as part of the program should call 239-8433.

### Flu shots offered civilians

Civilian employees who also are DoD military health care beneficiaries can receive flu vaccinations between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Nov. 28 and 30 and Dec. 2.

If a DoD civilian employee is not able to make these dates or times, they should call Occupational Health and confirm another time to receive the vaccination.

For more information, call 239-7042.

### Commander plans address

Col. Thomas "Ty" Smith plans to address Fort Riley civilian employees in two ses-

sions Jan. 9. The first session begins at 10 a.m. and the second begins at 1:30 p.m. Both sessions will be in Barlow Theater, Building 7866, on Custer Hill. Employees need attend only one session.

### Hospital offers ophthalmology

With a new ophthalmologist on staff, Irwin Army Community Hospital has available appointments. Soldiers, their dependents and retirees may schedule an appointment by calling 239-7875.

### Army offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of a 2005 Mercury Mariner outboard motor, serial number 0R059727.

The motor was stolen between 4:15 p.m. and 6 p.m. Oct. 13, 2005, from the parking lot adjacent to Building 7424 on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is urged to call Special Agent Charles Baker at 239-3304, or the military police at 239-6767.



Post/Skidmore

## 2-2 HET returns

Staff Sgt. Roy Hahn is welcomed home by his wife, Miri, and daughters Amanda, 12, Cortney, 10, and Amber, 7. The ceremony welcoming the platoon home was held in King Field House Nov. 20 at 11 p.m.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

2 x 2'

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2X2 College Heights Nov TF

## Lieutenants

continued from page 1

ing, moving and communicating.

First Lt. David Simmons, executive officer for Company B, won the moving category with a 326 score on the APFT.

Second Lt. Rick Eggleston, 2nd Platoon leader in Company C, won the shooting category with a qualification score of 36 and a double qualification score of 54.

The winner of the communication category was 1st Lt. Kevin Ward, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, won the communication

category.

First Lt. Bryan Hill, Company A executive officer, won the overall competition.

These four leaders were recognized during a battalion formation.

A plaque will remain on the wall of the battalion headquarters to memorialize the event and to recognize the four officers who excelled in the competition.

The battalion plans to conduct the 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith competition each year.

## Funding

continued from page 1

Gardner.

The conference report also provides the VA with \$70.25 billion, which are \$4.87 billion more than 2005 levels. The report allotted \$22.55 billion for VA medical services. That amount represents an 8 percent increase over current funding levels. The measure also designates \$1.23 billion for emergency spending in response to the discovery of a projected budget shortfall for 2006.

"I am pleased the Senate has

acted quickly to improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform and their families especially during this time of war when so many are making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation," Roberts said. "These projects in Kansas reflect our commitment to provide our military with the best facilities to carry out their mission and to raise their families."

The whole Congress must approve recommended appropriations before they become law.

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## Support battalion continued from page 1

The 610th BSB's distribution company — Company A — also will field reverse osmosis water purification equipment to supply the whole brigade with drinkable water.

The battalion's field maintenance company — Company B — combines maintenance services formerly done at organization and direct support levels. Maintenance platoons assigned to each forward support company in each battalion will maintain on equipment in the battalion.

### More specialists added to rolls

The increased maintenance responsibility added a number of specialists to the battalion's rolls. The 610th is authorized maintenance warrant officers for electronics, armament, engine repair and allied trades, such as welding and fabrication. "Those are specialists you wouldn't have seen in a light support battalion before," Weaver said.

The new organization also requires more mechanics in the battalion. The authorized number of mechanics for a light infantry battalion grew from about four to as many as 50, Weaver said.

"We also have additional small arms repairmen in the forward support companies, so we can fix broken weapons," he said.

The increased maintenance responsibilities for a support battalion add resources to accomplish the increased mission. "They'll take more shop and bench (repair) stock with them, parts they didn't have before," Weaver said about the companies performing maintenance.

With more maintenance support available in the battalion and with more repair parts immediately available to his Soldiers, Weaver said he thinks support time can be cut down from what brigades formerly experienced.

The new support battalion structure includes a medical company — Company C — that will provide resuscitative care for wounded and injured Soldiers who can be returned quickly to duty, Weaver explained.

The new company adds dental care, x-ray capabilities and a mental health team to care for brigade Soldiers. Weaver sees the addition of mental health specialists as a definite improvement in the support services provided internally to a brigade.

During a previous assignment in Iraq, Weaver's unit had to request attachment of mental health specialists from other organizations, but the help they gave Soldiers was remarkable, he said.

One forward support company — Company D — is part of the reconnaissance squadron, 1st

Squadron, 4th Cavalry. Two other companies — Companies E and F — have increased transportation capabilities to support 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, and 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, Weaver said.

Another forward support company — Company G — provides field feeding, petroleum supply and water and equipment maintenance support for 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery.

### Personal experience helps set procedures

With nothing to build on but the personal experience of those assigned to the unit, the brigade and battalion command cadre looked first at getting people into critical leadership positions — company commanders, battalion sergeants major and company first sergeants, Weaver said.

"The Army needs leaders who can think on their feet. Lower level people need to make decisions, so, we're empowering them to make decisions now," while the battalion is organizing, he added.

"We're taking the experience from everyone to write our SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)."

The brigade and battalion cadre also looked at key areas that would need immediate concentration, Weaver said. "One of the critical tasks for us is combat

logistics patrols, so we're setting procedures in place on how we'll conduct combat logistics patrols."

Setting those procedures in place without the equipment to practice with creates a unique challenge to Soldiers of the new brigade support battalion. Sgt. 1st Class Lee Wright, the battalion's truck master, is meeting that challenge head-on.

The first challenge was finding classroom space to teach the procedures being developed, he said. Some classroom space in Building 8360 in the new battalion's motor pool area alleviated some of that problem.

The next problem was finding equipment to use to practice what had been taught. "We outsourced that," Wright said. "We borrowed some 'Humvees' from 1st Brigade (1st Infantry Division)."

Even without its own equipment, training doesn't suffer, Weaver contends. Fort Riley offers many training facilities and plenty of vehicles can be found on post, he said.

Lack of people presents a unique problem in standing up a new unit, Weaver said. That means few people to do a lot of things, and people needed to do things that they normally wouldn't do or might have to learn to do, he explained.

"But our Soldiers are very adaptive and receptive," so every-

thing gets done, Weaver commented.

A plus for the battalion is that many of the Soldiers have served together in some relationship earlier in their Army careers, and many have common experiences. "Those previous experiences have helped," he said.

Only 90 Soldiers of the eventual 870 authorized, had reported for duty as of Nov. 10, but Weaver expected to start seeing 15 to 20 new Soldiers arriving each week beginning late in November.

Also beneficial, Weaver said, was his opportunity to meet a lot of his lieutenants before coming to Fort Riley. He was attending the pre-command course at the time.

### Drivers' licenses set unexpected hurdle

An unexpected hurdle materialized when some of the battalion's new, young Soldiers reported for duty without a civilian driver's license.

That's a significant problem, Weaver said, because transportation is a large part of the battalion's mission. Getting the new Soldiers civilian licenses is an immediate priority, and the Soldier's supervisor usually walks the person through the process of getting one, Wright said.

Weaver also emphasizes driver

training for operating military vehicles. "That's the cornerstone of what we do for the brigade. We want to prevent rollovers and accidents," which have been factors in Iraqi operations, he said.

Wright supervises the driver training. Soldiers learn Kansas driving laws, defensive driving techniques, safety precautions and more. Wright makes sure Soldiers assigned to the battalion know about cold weather driving risks and how to fill out a risk assessment form.

He also introduces them to the hazards of driving in sand. "We're briefing it now and doing some off-road driving," Wright said.

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## Defense delays employee system implementation

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
AFPS

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense will delay implementing the new National Security Personnel System until Feb. 1, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said.

Several unions recently filed a lawsuit challenging some aspects of NSPS regulations, England said.

However, DoD, OPM, the Justice Department and the unions involved in the lawsuit announced an agreement Nov. 16.

"While the lawsuit is in process, we have all agreed that DoD will continue the training on NSPS and will continue collaboration with them on implementation details," England said.

He said the final NSPS regulations were published in the Federal Register on Nov. 1.

That publication, he said, had triggered a 30-day period for congressional review of the regulations before their implementation.

### Officials update Senate committee

England and other Defense Department and Office of Personnel Management officials provided members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee an update on NSPS matters at a Capitol Hill hearing Nov. 17.

England told senators that NSPS would benefit DoD employees. "This is a win for DoD, it's a win for our employees and it's a win for our nation," he said.

NSPS is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's program to transform the way DoD does business to better meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The new program, in development since 2003, will replace the current general-schedule personnel ranking system with broad pay

bands.

Employees are evaluated for performance in duties directly tied to departmental missions.

Under NSPS, that pay-for-performance system replaces old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

### Changes will affect 650,000 employees

DoD and OPM are partnering to establish the NSPS, which eventually will affect DoD's more than 650,000-person civilian work force.

"Our collaboration with the department has been a joint effort, and I do thank Secretary England and his staff for his leadership during this undertaking," OPM Director Linda Springer told the Senate panel.

She said OPM's role in assisting to craft new NSPS regulations was to ensure there is a proper balance between accomplishing missions and the needs of the work force.

"After all, it's the people in government who make the government work. We also recognize that the government's human resources system must protect and promote fairness and transparency, and guarantee equal access for all," Springer said.

NSPS guards against prohibited personnel practices, protects whistleblowers from recriminations, and maintains all safeguards against discrimination, Springer said.

She said NSPS achieves the balance of employees' rights to representation and collective bargaining with DoD's mission requirements.

"Finally, the NSPS honors and promotes veterans' preference, a privilege that has been dearly earned through personal sacrifice by our men and women in uniform," Springer said.



## 24th Trans. returns

Col. Dana Pittard, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), praises the accomplishments of the 24th Transportation Company at their redeployment ceremony Nov. 17 in King Field House. More than 125 Soldiers returned home after having served a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Post/Skidmore

## BRAC sets Army for transformation

### Military services face six-year milestone for realignment

By Cheryl Austin

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The process of reorganizing Army installations and commands has officially begun. Nov. 8 was the last day that a joint Congress could reject the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, Commission.

Each service is now tasked with submitting a BRAC implementation budget to the Department of Defense by Dec. 2, so that DoD may prepare and propose a budget for congressional approval.

The law governing the BRAC process requires that work on

### News analysis

implementing the recommendations must begin within the next two years. All changes must be completed within six years, except areas requiring more time for environmental clean up.

These changes include repositioning forces returning from overseas to Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Army's Training and Doctrine Command is being restructured, with a particular focus on maneuver training.

By moving significant numbers of employees from costly leased spaces with less force protection

analyze the resources needed to implement BRAC recommendations.

In addition to preparing a business plan, selected installations must also designate a BRAC transition coordinator who will oversee base compliance with DoD and BRAC guidelines.

The changes recommended by the BRAC Commission are an integral part of the Army's transformation efforts.

In addition to bringing Soldiers home from overseas, Army transformation components include establishing modular brigades and changing the institutional Army. Each Soldier ultimately will be affected by these efforts to reshape the structure of the Army.

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LEATHER,  
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1x1.5 Prairie Hawg Nov TF

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# Commentary

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

If you could talk with a famous person in history, who would it be and what would you want to talk about?



"George Washington. I would ask him how he feels about the changes taking place in the values this country was founded on. 'In God We Trust' is trying to be removed and we don't observe Thanksgiving for its true meaning anymore."

**Cheryl Bruggeman**  
PX concessionaire  
Brugy Wood  
Home: Blooming Prairie, Minn.



"I would ask Gen. Patton how he moved his division so fast during the Battle of the Bulge."

**Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Chalupa**  
Track driver  
425th Transportation Company  
Home: Emporia, Kan.



"Jesus. I would like to ask him how it felt to die for us, knowing that we would continue to make mistakes."

**Staff Sgt. Reginald Johnson**  
Automated logistics specialist  
HHHC, 3rd Brigade  
Home: New Orleans



"George Washington. I would ask him if he really cut down the cherry tree."

**Pvt. Steven Olivarez**  
Electronic device preparer  
4th Brigade Combat Team  
Home: Rockport, Texas



"I would ask Abraham Lincoln what he was feeling as he delivered the Gettysburg Address."

**Pvt. Adam Seewald**  
Mortarman  
1st Battalion, 16th Infantry  
Home: Coopersville, Mich.

### Next week's question:

What did you have to be thankful for this Thanksgiving holiday?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

**By Gene-Thomas Gornulka**  
Retired Navy chaplain

When one shops at most military exchanges today, one is often impressed with the ambience and quality of many of the products. If exchanges have improved in appearance over the years to resemble upscale retail operations, it is because of one reason: profit margins.

In response to an article in which I remarked, "Exchanges today are more of a convenience than they are a savings," one enlisted Soldier wrote:

"The Exchanges are now run by civilians and overseen by senior officers who look to make a profit. They comparison price items so the main difference is you do not pay taxes."

A married E-4 in the Army, stationed in Hawaii, wrote: "While some things are cheaper at the PX, we have found that Sam's Club, Wal-Mart and Costco are the best places to shop for most of everything you need."

Similar comments were offered by others who felt that those who manage the exchanges are primarily interested in turning a profit and impressing military service secretaries with how much money they can contribute to morale, welfare and recreation funds.

Some people have the attitude that lower exchange prices were more important in the past when military salaries were lower. However, while most officers and senior enlisted may be interested in buying designer clothes at prices that are competitive with retail stores, what about the E-3 with a wife and child who is more interested in saving



**Gene-Thomas Gornulka**

money on disposable diapers and baby formula?

Those who operate the exchanges take pride in noting how military personnel save an average of 22 percent

when compared to outside retail prices.

This is true. If you want to buy some imported Waterford crystal or designer fashions, you will save this amount. However, are the exchanges in existence primarily to serve officers and senior enlisted who can afford such items?

If one were to do price comparisons with items that are available in some of the places mentioned by the Soldier in Hawaii, one would discover that items in demand by most junior enlisted personnel and their families are more reasonably priced in such retail stores.

Consider for a moment an E-3 with a wife and child. At this stage in his married life, he's probably not going to shop for Waterford crystal. Items like disposable diapers and baby formula will probably have a higher priority. While 56 Pampers No. 1 sell for \$11.99 at the Marine Corps exchange in Quantico, Va., the identical product with tax costs \$9.70 at the local Wal-Mart for a savings of \$2.29 (19 percent less).

One does not have to be a mathematician to recognize that the young Marine and his family are not saving 22 percent by purchasing their disposable diapers

at the local base exchange.

A poll was conducted recently over the Internet in which military personnel were asked to vote whether exchanges should operate at their current profit margins, generating money to support MWR operations, or if they should operate like commissaries and sell their products for a small percentage over cost. Over 90 percent of those who participated in the poll voted to have exchanges operate like commissaries at much lower profit margins.

Those who operate or are employed by exchanges would differ with this recommendation. They would argue that profits from exchange sales greatly benefit MWR operations. According to Judd Anstey, media branch manager for AAFES that serves the Army and Air Force communities, 68 percent of AAFES earnings (\$242 million) were paid to MWR programs in fiscal year 2004 (Fort Riley received more than \$670,000). This amounted to a per capita dividend of \$277 for every Soldier and Airman.

If military personnel supposedly receive a \$277 dividend through MWR services, why are they voting to lower prices and reduce profit margins? The answer is that almost all military personnel do not believe they are receiving \$277 worth of services annually from MWR.

Exchange and MWR officials would argue that MWR operates bowling alleys, video stores and other services that could be jeopardized if the cost of products were reduced by lowering profit margins.

The problem is that many MWR operations subsidized by exchange profits offer products

that can be obtained on the local economy for less. Why rent a video at the MWR contracted base video store when identical videos are available off base for less? Why purchase your gas on base when local gas stations in some areas offer it for less?

When flag officers and civilian officials who operate the military exchange systems boast that their combined contributions to MWR programs in fiscal year 2004 exceeded half a billion dollars, how many people in the military believe that those profits are justified and necessary to support MWR operations, many of which generate their own profits?

It is time to rethink the mission of military exchanges that currently seek to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support morale, welfare and recreation programs?

If the Exchanges truly exist to serve military personnel and their families, what is preventing them from selling all of their products for less than other retailers?

According to counselors who work at family support centers, the No. 1 cause for divorces among young military couples is financial problems. Apart from generating profits and subsidizing profit-making and free MWR services, what are the exchanges doing to help young families financially?

Unless prices are lowered by changing the profit margins established by the exchanges, more and more junior personnel and their families who operate on very tight budgets will continue to live from pay check to pay check and be forced to shop online and at local retailers.

Is this really "taking care of our own" and "serving those who serve?"

## Pen Points

### Helping others gives us all good feelings

**By Mike Heronemus**  
Editor

Like so many other people in this nation of free citizens, I've had lots to be thankful for throughout my life. Like so many of those same people, I've taken those same things for granted most of the time. And, like so many of those same people, I've not given much thought to the situation of others -- concerned mostly with my own existence.

That was driven home to me the other day as I interviewed Spc. Robert Pendley of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. He said he thought Americans today were ruder than people were 20 or 30 years ago. One of the reasons, he said, was because they didn't slow down to help others. They were too wrapped up in their own lives to think how their actions affected others.

This young man sat in the PX

food court, cuddling his child close to his chest with a young wife sitting across the table from him.

He wasn't asking for any special consideration, I'm sure, but his point was clear. Our young citizens may need some help becoming old citizens -- like me -- living a comfortable life.

This holiday season, we old citizens and all those other people like me have bountiful opportunities to do something for others.

Operation Santa Claus is one way. Contributing to the combined Federal Campaign on post is another.

Undoubtedly, we will hear the Salvation Army bells ringing this year, and a few coins dropped in the kettle grow to huge sums that will feed many and put smiles on the faces of children surprised by Christmas gifts they weren't expecting.

I promise, helping feels good.



**Mike Heronemus**

### Grunt By Wayne Uhden



## FORT RILEY POST

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### How does the Post rate?

	Poor	Fair	Good
Interesting articles .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil).

### What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):





## Post news in brief

### BOSS plans next meeting

The Fort Riley Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers organization will meet at 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Internet Cafe.

### Holiday alters trash pickup

The refuse schedule has changed during the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The remaining schedule is:

**Nov. 23** – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, Marshall Field and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 542 and 621.

**Nov. 24** – No pick up.  
**Nov. 25** – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights south of Thomas Avenue and dumpster at Building 5309. No change from regular schedule.

For more information, call Paul Cassella at 239-6274.

### Grads sought for ceremony

Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who have graduated from local college or SOCAD college programs may participate in a post-wide commencement Dec. 7.

For information, call Adelina Morales at 239-6481.

# Troop School trains unit armorers

By Michael J. Nyeste  
19th PAD

Graduates of a Troop School course help keep the Army's Soldiers shooting.

The Unit Armorer Weapons Maintenance Course prepares Soldiers for cleaning, repairing and keeping accountability of unit weapons.

Four times a year, armorers have to inspect and identify any deficiencies or shortcomings with the weapons and get them repaired," said George Bowman, an instructor for the unit armorer class.

Bowman, a retired sergeant major, has been an instructor at two noncommissioned officer academies and has taught weapons maintenance at every unit he's been with.

Bowman said the Fort Riley Troop School class is beneficial to Soldiers for many reasons.

"The class helps Soldiers a lot because at their own platoons and sections they can have further insight in what can go wrong with weapons in the field," he said.

In addition to orientations on unit armorer responsibility and weapons security, Soldiers attend maintenance courses on the .50-caliber machine gun, M9 pistol, M16 assault rifle, M249 squad automatic weapon and Mark19 automatic grenade launcher.

The class concludes with a 100-question test covering everything the six-day class presented, Bowman said.

Fort Riley is among a few Army installations that don't just give a certificate upon completing the class.

"Most installations only give



19th PAD/Nyeste

**Pfc. Ashley Ruark, a supply specialist with HHC, 501st Maint. Bn., contemplates the next step she must take to disassemble a .50-caliber machine gun in the Unit Armorer Weapons Maintenance Course.**

the certificate. We give the certificate and (three semester hours of) college credit," Bowman said.

Soldiers with or without mechanical or weapons maintenance experience are welcomed and encouraged to attend the class.

"I find the people who don't have any experience tend to pay more attention and they go by the book more. They don't have to worry about bad habits that they may have picked up somewhere else," Bowman said.

Pvt. Mackenzie Rider, an Apache helicopter avionics weapons, electrical systems repairer for the 24th Infantry Division (Mech), attended the class.

"The hands-on stuff is pretty interesting," Rider said.

The only weapons maintenance experience Rider had before taking the class was working on M16 assault rifles in basic combat training and working with the 30mm cannon on Apache helicopters, he said.

"The instructor has a lot of good information. I'm learning a new skill that will make me more productive for my unit," he said.

Rider had little trouble learning what the class teaches. "The group behind me was having a little trouble, so I helped them out," he said.

Rider said he recommends the class. "You get college credit, it's fun, you get to do a lot of hands-on with weapons you normally wouldn't and you get to learn more in-depth information about weapons," he said.

Spc. Donald Hargrove, a supply specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, has been a unit armorer but found the class beneficial.

"It's a refresher for people who have been armorers. It's a good class," he said.

Hargrove said the hardest part about the class is disassembling the weapons, but "after you attempt to do it a couple of times, it eventually becomes second nature."

The next six-day Unit Armorer Weapons Maintenance Course is Dec. 5-12.



19th PAD/Nyeste

**Pfc. Michael Morril (left), an intelligence analyst with 308th Military Intelligence, and Spc. Matthew Miller, 2nd Sqdn., 4th Cav., watch George Bowman, an instructor for the Fort Riley Troop School's Unit Armorer Weapons Maintenance Course, teach how to disassemble a .50-caliber machine gun.**





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## Post news in brief

### Dining facilities post hours

Thanksgiving Day meal hours and cost will be:  
**Main Post Dining Facility in Building 251** - Breakfast from 6 to 7 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**1st BCT Consolidated Dining Facility in Building 7011** - Breakfast from 6 to 7 a.m., lunch from noon to 3 p.m. and dinner from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The standard meal rate is \$5.80, which applies to all active duty Soldiers, retirees, spouses and guests.

The discount rate is \$4.90, which applies only to the spouses, dependents and guests of Soldiers in pay grade E-4 and below.

For more information, call Madelene Austin At 239-9263.

### Decorative boughs offered

Units, housing occupants and activities desiring cedar and pine boughs to decorate the interior and exterior of their buildings can pick up this material at the Public Works parking lot on Dickman Avenue across from Building 364 on Main Post.

Boughs will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis through Dec. 25.

Extreme care should be taken to avoid fire hazards when using boughs to decorate. Frequent misting or sprinkling of boughs with water is recommended to retard their drying out.

Cutting pine and cedar trees or branches anywhere on the installation is prohibited.

For more information, call 239-3908.

### E-7 promotion board slated

The fiscal year 2006 sergeant first class promotion board will convene Jan. 31. Eligibility criteria for promotion consideration to sergeant first class are those Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course qualified staff sergeants who have a date of rank of Feb. 1, 2004, or earlier and basic active duty service date between Feb. 1, 1985, and Jan. 31, 2000, both dates inclusive.

Staff sergeants with a date of rank of Feb. 1, 2003, or earlier will be considered in the primary zone. Those with a date of rank of Feb. 2, 2003, through Feb. 1, 2004, will be considered in the secondary zone.

Staff sergeants have until Jan. 13, 2006, to validate their Web enlisted records brief, submit a digital photograph, submit documents to their official military personnel file and provide NCO enlisted records to the Enlisted Records Evaluation Center.

BNOC graduation is a requirement for consideration by this board. However, all staff sergeants who meet other criteria should update their records.

Eligible staff sergeants may schedule an appointment to update their ERBs by calling 239-2973 or 239-2934.

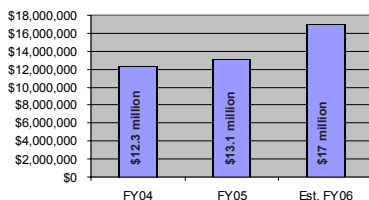
### Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of a black, 2005 Honda TRX 450-R all-terrain vehicle, Vehicle Identification Number HFTE30045A110847.

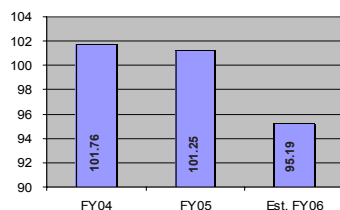
The ATV was stolen between 7:45 a.m. Sept. 16 and 7 p.m. Sept. 17 from the parking lot adjacent to Building 7002B and Infantry Drive on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call 239-8641.

## Energy cost increases



## Energy consumed/SF



# Officials expect post's energy costs to increase

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Fort Riley spent \$13 million on energy in Fiscal Year 05. With forecasted increases in oil prices this winter, an estimated \$17 million could be spent in FY 06, one post official estimates.

"Up until this point, the Army has been able to pay its energy bills," said Russ Goering, chief, Energy Office. "With prices increasing, they can't keep up ... they're scratching to pay the bills."

A good portion of that energy bill - 44 percent - comes from lighting and powering equipment. Heating expenses take up 39 percent of the budget. Hot water, air conditioning and other expenses make up the remaining 17 percent.

To help decrease costs, the Directorate of Public Works has taken several steps to upgrade energy inefficient buildings on post.

Within the past year, Bonneville Power Administration has been making agreements with military installations, including Fort Riley, Goering said. Headquartered in Portland, Ore., BPA is a federal agency that is part of the U.S. Department of Energy.

"They'll provide you third party financing, and we can repay that over time from the energy savings," Goering said.

With that financing, DPW was able to do seven energy conservation projects during the year. Projects included lighting retrofits and air condition and heating systems upgrades.

The annual payments for those seven projects amount to \$51,000 a year for 10 years. The annual savings from the projects amounts to \$68,000 a year.

More needs to be done, but the directorate is plagued with budget

## Energy tips

*Energy conservation isn't just something DPW can do. Everyone can help, Goering said, offering a few conservation tips:*

- Turn off lights, equipment and computer monitors when they are not needed
- Keep thermostat at a reasonable level (70-72 degrees for winter)
- Report malfunctioning heating systems as soon as possible

*"Most people are doing pretty good about turning off lights and are to be commended," he said, "but we have to make sure to keep it up."*

problems that limit what it can do, Goering said.

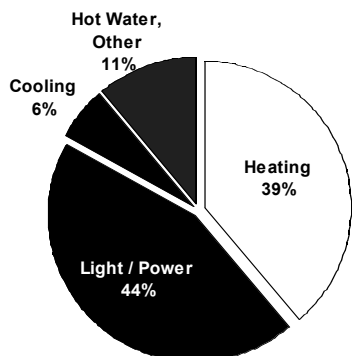
"There are a lot of systems that don't work like they should; they're old systems," he said. "We know some of the areas where we can make improvements, and we're trying to do what we can. Of course, with the budgets the way they are, it's kind of hard."

"We still have a lot of buildings that have some inefficient heating and cooling systems ... So much of our energy goes into heating, so that's where we're focusing our energies to try and save on our heating costs," Goering said.

One of the most cost-effective heating solutions, Goering said, is putting in digital thermostat controls.

"People are at work eight hours a day, more or less. So that leaves 16 hours a day, or at least 12 hours a day, when we could set the building back to a lower temperature and save a lot of energy. If we could set it back to 65 (degrees) for eight hours, we can save 10 percent," Goering said.

## Fort Riley energy costs



# Getting gassed 'fun,' confidence builder

By Karl W. Johnson  
363rd MPAD

With skin tingling, eyes burning and choking gas sneaking into her lungs, Spec. Eden J. Stone emerged, protective mask in hand, from Fort Riley's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) chamber with renewed confidence in her protective gear.

"The gas chamber made me happy to find out that my mask worked," said Stone, an aviation operations specialist with the 3rd Battalion, 135th Aviation. "I sealed it, like, eight times before we went in," she joked.

The Missouri native and six other Soldiers in her unit went through the NBC chamber in early November in preparation for their January deployment to Iraq. "First they yelled 'gas, gas, gas,' letting us know that it was time to put on our masks," Stone said. "Then they walked us into

the chamber and made us do high knees and arm circles."

"I think they made us move around so that we would know our masks worked while being active," said Spec. Trisha M. Wyatt, an administration specialist with the aviation unit.

After breaking the seals and then resealing and clearing their masks, the seven Soldiers lined up for the final exercise - taking their masks off in the chamber.

"I was nervous," Wyatt said. "I was the first one to take off the mask."

"They made us take off our mask, say our name, rank, unit and home town," she said. "Then they let us leave the chamber."

Wyatt didn't waste time reciting her personal information. "I said it so fast (that) I almost said my cell phone number instead of my Social Security Number," she said.

"I remembered how bad it burned when I went through the

chamber during basic training," she said.

For at least one Soldier in the aviation, going through the chamber was an enjoyable experience. Spec. Erica J. Carter, an aviation operations specialist, said she would go again if given the opportunity.

"I don't think the gas here was as strong as the gas they used when I went to basic," Carter said. "It was a fun experience instead of a scary one."

Carter said the effects of the NBC chamber wore off in only a few minutes, but what will stay is how she feels about the protective mask.

"I would be confident that my mask would work if my unit ever got gassed," she said.

The NBC chamber at Fort Riley is operated by the Post Chemical staff in the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
3 x 15"  
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Std's Doc's Directory





Spec. Miles Blanco, an in-processing 4th BCT Soldier, puts items into a cart at the Central Issue Facility on post Nov. 18. For the time being, new Soldiers being assigned to the 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div., at Fort Riley in-process through the post's 1st Replacement Co. The brigade's cadre is developing its own in-processing program for Soldiers that they expect to test in December. Once the program is finalized, the brigade will assume total responsibility for in-processing its Soldiers.  
19th PAD/Perry

## Brigade preps for people mission

By Anna Perry  
19th PAD

Standing up a brigade from scratch means assimilating new Soldiers into an organization that also is new and finding its own way to the future. Sponsoring and in-processing incoming personnel present two major hurdles that the new 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, is jumping while trying to get organized itself.

In the near future, Soldiers destined for the 4th BCT will be assimilated through a new program controlled by the new brigade's Special Troop Battalion.

"At this point, we are still relying on the 1st Replacement Company to in-process 4th BCT Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Joe Birchmeier, the BSTB commander.

The brigade has also been receiving assistance with sponsorship.

"Due to a lack of available personnel, sponsorship has been handled by units throughout the post," Birchmeier said. However, the brigade is preparing to take complete control of both sponsorship and in-processing.

"Right now we have a 30-man cadre right-seat riding with the 1st Replacement Co.," Birchmeier

said. "Eventually, the team will take over and incoming Soldiers will belong to the BSTB their first week, just like what the 1st Replacement does," he said. "We will provide barracks and they will be under the control of BSTB cadre."

The brigade's program differs from the 1st Replacement Co. in many ways.

"To begin with, the Soldiers will be integrated into the brigade from day one," Birchmeier said. "They will become familiar with everything from our physical training standards to our uniform expectations right off the bat."

Additionally, the BSTB will have Soldiers complete their in-processing in two phases.

"During phase one, the Soldiers will take care of issues such as housing, transportation and finance...things of that nature," Birchmeier said. "They will also complete the required classes."

The brigade is especially focused on taking care of Soldiers' family issues.

"Soldiers arriving with families will be sent off on a 10-day temporary duty to get situated before they even begin the first phase," Birchmeier said. "We don't want them to worry about anything while they in-process and get into

the subsequent training."

The "subsequent training" will be accomplished in the second phase.

"Phase two consists of the common Soldier skills that everyone in this brigade has to have," Birchmeier said.

"The different battalions will be in charge of putting Soldiers through training, such as the Combat Lifesaver Course, driver's training, range safety and weapons qualification," he said.

After completing both phases, Soldiers will be assigned to their battalions to begin squad and team level training.

The BSTB plans to assume partial in-processing responsibility from 1st Replacement Co. the first week of December. "We will take 50 Soldiers and run a test case," Birchmeier said. "We will correct any issues and then completely take over the first week of January."

The brigade anticipates putting 2,500 Soldiers through the process from January until probably the end of April, Birchmeier said.

Although the BSTB is not quite ready to handle in-processing, Birchmeier believes they are now equipped to deal with sponsorship.



### Weapons cache grows as Soldiers keep digging

After receiving a tip from a local resident, Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, uncovered what turned out to be a large weapons cache west of Baghdad Nov. 14.

The unit initially found a small cache consisting of two rocket-propelled grenades and an AK-47 assault rifle. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, expanded the search of the area and discovered one of the largest of 17 weapons caches the team has made.

As of Nov. 16, the team had found 150,000 7.62 rounds of ammunition, 600 propellant charges, 500 blasting caps, 400 artillery fuses, 150 hand grenades, 150 120mm rounds, 125 rockets, 100 primer charges, 85 82mm mortar rounds, 68 60mm rounds, 50 plastic grenades, 35 anti-tank mines, 13 20mm rockets, 12 RPG launchers, multiple barrels and bags of small-arms ammunition, seven missiles, seven rolls of copper wire, three 60mm mortar systems, three 55-gallon drums of fertilizer, three rolls of detonation cord, two 82mm mortar tubes with bases, and one 82mm mortar system.

### Coalition forces catch suspects with munitions

Iraqi and Coalition forces working a joint operation detained three suspected insurgents with a number of munitions Nov. 16.

The men had a 60mm mortar tube, two 81mm mortar rounds, a 115mm round and a fire extinguisher packed with explosives.

### Coalition forces capture high-level Baath Party leader

Coalition forces captured the leader of the New Baath Party in Diyala province, Iraq, during a Nov. 9 patrol.

Coalition members apprehended Hamid Shadi along with physical evidence at his home. Shadi is a former member of the Baath Party in Diyala province and is suspected of being responsible for all insurgent Baath Party activities in that area.

Coalition forces believe he can provide crucial information on the whereabouts of former Staff Gen. Jamal Karki, a suspected Baathist insurgent, and Abd-al-Baqi al-Saoud, who has been a fugitive since the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime in 2003.

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GR100- AFC  
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## College graduates to receive diplomas

By Anna Perry  
19th PAD

A graduation ceremony is slated for 1 p.m. Dec. 7 at King Field House in honor of 114 students including active duty Soldiers, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, veterans, retirees, family members and civilians.

Each of the graduates has earned an associate, bachelor's or master's degree from Barton County Community College, Central Texas University, Kansas State University, Central Michigan University, Upper Iowa University, Southwestern College or the University of Mary.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley commanding general, will deliver the commencement keynote address.

"I encourage the entire community to support the graduates for their great achievement," said Federico Rodriguez, director of Fort Riley Education Services.

"Most of them are Soldiers earning degrees while serving on active duty, which is especially difficult at this time in U.S. history due to many deployments," he said.

## Five Soldiers end careers

Staff report

Five Soldiers were honored for their military service in a retirement ceremony held Nov. 16 at Riley's Conference Center.

Chief Warrant Officer John Conway, 2nd Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment, retired after 20 years of service. He plans to reside in Cape May, N.J., and work as an aviation advisor to the department of state or as contract pilot.

Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Curtiss, 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion,

retired after 21 years of service. He plans to reside in Swansboro, N.C., and spend more time with his family.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Pierce, 774th Ordnance Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion, retired after 20 years of service. He plans to reside in Beaver, Pa., and possibly work for local law enforcement.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Reed, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 541st Maint. Bn., retired after 20 years of service. He plans to work for a company in logistics.

Sgt. 1st Class Armogen Walker,

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), retired after 20 years of service. He plans to reside in Olathe, Kan., and continue serving as the senior pastor of Bethany Chapel Baptist Church in that city.

COTTONWOOD THEATERS  
1 x 3"  
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1x3 Cottonwood Nov.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA  
2 x 4"  
Black Only  
204 1st. Assen/God Nov TF

## ROTC cadets compete

By Chloe Bos

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN — A team of Kansas State University Army ROTC cadets placed fourth in the Cadet Command 11th Brigade Ranger Challenge, a military skills and leadership competition, Oct. 29 at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Fifteen teams from nine colleges competed in the challenge. From K-State, 18 cadets were assigned to Team A or Team B, depending on their experience.

Team A consisted of more experienced cadets. Team B was for cadets with less experience, said Cadet Capt. Adam Cowan.

Team B is designed to give younger cadets more exposure to the event and helps them prepare for future challenges.

Team A finished fourth. Team B placed 14th.

The event, "15 Hours of Pain," tested the cadets' teamwork and military and fitness skills.

Activities at the event included a shooting accuracy competition, crossing a one-rope bridge and an Army Physical Fitness Test.

The fitness test included push-ups, sit-ups, a two-mile run and a 10-kilometer rucksack run.

K-State cadets took first place in the rifle marksmanship competition.

"This event prepares cadets for future challenges," Cowan said.

Cadets began practicing for the event in September and have devoted a minimum of 10 hours a week in preparation for the challenge, said Lt. Col. Curt Slick, K-State assistant professor of military science and team adviser.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ABILENE  
3 x 5"  
Black Only  
3x5 Heartland Lasix

USA DISCOUNTERS  
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Black Only  
BLUE/BU 11/11

KANSAS WIRELESS  
3 x 4"  
Black Only  
3X4 KS Wireless 11/4 0427 ml

FIRST BANK  
3 x 7"  
Black Only  
3x7 FirstBank Quarter Set



# Fort Riley Community Life

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

## Community news briefly

### Child seat checks slated

The Installation Safety Office, in conjunction with the Manhattan and Geary County Health Departments, will conduct a child car seat safety check from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 17 in the post exchange parking lot.

The safety office staff intends to conduct such check about four times each year with the civilian agencies and Army and Air Forces Exchange Service participation.

For more information, call 239-8499.

### Holiday tree lighting set

Friends, family and neighbors are invited to attend Fort Riley's annual holiday tree lighting ceremony slated for 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at the post headquarters, Building 500.

Santa Claus will make an appearance and refreshments will be served.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, will speak. The invocation will be provided by Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth Sampson.

### PX stores post holiday hours

The following Army and Air Force Exchange System stores and activities will adjust operating hours for the Thanksgiving holiday. Operating hours will be:

Main Post Shopette – closed Nov. 24

Custer Hill Shopette – open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 24

Forsyth Shopette – open 24 hours Nov. 24

Many Post Exchange – open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24 and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 25

Class VI Store – open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24

Military Clothing Sales Store – closed Nov. 24

Sports Page – closed Nov. 24 and 25

Popeye's – closed Nov. 24, open noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 25-27

Pizza Hut – closed Nov. 24, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 25

Burger King – open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24

Charley's – open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24

Anthony's Pizza – open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24

Cinnabon – open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 24

Robin Hood, Frank's

Franks, Baskin Robbins – closed Nov. 24

closed Nov. 24

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## Soldier Show seeks cast, crew

By Jack L. Gillund  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army Soldier Show Selection Committee is accepting nominations for performers in the categories of vocalists, dancers, musicians and specialty acts.

Nominations for technicians are being accepted for lighting,

audio, video, costume makers and stage technicians.

Nominations for individuals interested in performing in or working as a technician for the 2006 Army Soldier Show must be received by Dec. 30.

Nominations should be sent to: U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attn: 2006 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. In addition to sharing their tal-

ent with Soldiers and their families around the world, individuals selected to be a part of the production also will receive college credit from Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey.

"Performers are eligible for 12 credits from that university," said Victor Hurtado, artistic director for the Soldier Show. "The credits are in technical theater, performance and movement. They're

fully transferable elective credits, whether the Soldiers continue in theater or not."

The selection of nominees through local installation or regional level competitions is encouraged but not required. Soldiers also may submit individual audition packets through the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation at their installation.

Preference will be given to performers who show versatility in musical style and experience and technicians with experience and a variety of skills. Technicians with past leadership and building experience and mechanical or electrical aptitude may also be considered for positions of higher responsibility.

See Soldier Show, Page 14

## 'Sgt. Cowboy'



Post/Heronemus

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Copeland puts a halter on his grand champion quarter horse stallion, Poco's Tommy Boy, in a corral at the ranch he lives on about 20 miles west of Junction City. He has been a horseman throughout his 19 years in the Army, including a three-year tour with the Caisson Platoon of the Old Guard at Fort Myer, Va.

## Soldier rides life's love into future

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Copeland didn't look like a Soldier or a chaplain's assistant that Friday morning.

He wore a cowboy hat, boots and spurs and talked about horses while sitting comfortably in the kitchen of the 'Old Lowery Brothers' House' he lives in with his wife, her two children and his son about 20 miles west of Junction City.

Copeland traces his cowboy blood back to his grandfather, who he said was among the top five bull riders in the nation in 1934. The cowboy life evaded Copeland while he was growing up "an Army brat," following his father around the world until the family retired in Lawton, Okla.

After a year of college, Copeland joined the Army and might again have missed out on a lifestyle that has become a passionate avocation and what will soon become a full-time job: riding, roping, training, buying and selling horses.

He might have missed out, except the Army assigned him to the Old Guard mounted ceremonial unit at Fort Myer, Va., where he became part of the caisson platoon.

"I rode for President Reagan and 'Daddy Bush,'" he said about some high points during that three-year assignment.

More importantly, Copeland said he began to really learn about horses and came to love caring for them and training

See Horseman, Page 14

## Ware school earns award

By Charles Volland  
USD 475

The National Association of State Title I Directors announced Nov. 16 that Ware Elementary School at Fort Riley has been selected as one of 52 Title I Distinguished Schools.

Ware was selected for outstanding results in Category 1 for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.

These 52 academically outstanding schools were commended for rising above obstacles of poverty with the help of the Title I program.

Title I Distinguished Schools, despite great challenges, hold their student to high standards and take seriously their charge to improve children's learning," said Kathryn Manning, president of NASTID.

The selected schools are an example to other Title I schools of approaches, programs and creative education techniques that work," she said.

Title I is the largest federal-aid program in kindergarten through 12th grade education. Since 1996, the National Association of State Title I Directors has selected examples of superior Title I school programs for recognition.

Ware and the other selected schools will be honored at the annual distinguished schools award ceremony at the NASTID annual conference in Dallas in January 2006.

## Society plans holiday home tours on post

By Alma Gutierrez  
Special to the Post

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley plans to host a Christmas tour of homes on Main Post from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

Cost for HASFR members will be \$5. Cost for nonmembers will be \$10.

The tour will include 10 homes: two on Barry Avenue, one on Pershing Avenue and seven on Schofield Circle.

All proceeds go toward covering costs for this and other HASFR events, Custer House upkeep and through the society's Community Distribution Committee, to private organizations, such as Operation Santa Claus, Operation Helping Hand, Combined Scholarship Fund and requests from the local community.

For more information about the event, call the U.S. Cavalry Museum at 239-2737 or send e-mail to hasfrvents@hotmail.com.

## DoD summit helps kids, families cope

### Experts, military installation reps gain ideas to help others

By Rudi Williams  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — A Defense Department summit Nov. 3 addressed how trauma and stress impact children's well-being and what interventions work to support their healthy development and family competence.

The summit, titled "When Duty Calls — Supporting Military Families Through Challenging Times," ended Nov. 5. It was held in conjunction with the "Zero to Three" 20th National Training Institute in Washington, D.C.

More than 500 of the 1,825 conclave attendees took part in

the DoD summit.

### Summit presents helping strategies

John M. Molino, DoD's presiding official, said attendees came to "learn more about strategies to help our children and their families effectively cope with a high stress environment, the impact of national disasters, and the consequences of war."

Molino is the deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy and deputy undersecretary for equal opportunity.

"There are 332,000 children

under 3 years of age in our active-duty families, and there are 109,000 infants and toddlers in the families of our Guard and Reserve forces," Molino said.

"Can there be any doubt that your dedicated work is absolutely critical to help children develop the emotional and coping mechanisms needed during stressful circumstances?"

Attendees included experts in early childcare and education, social work, family advocacy, new parent support programs and pediatric and behavioral health. Attendees came from more than 170 military installations across the United States and as far away

as Korea, Japan and Europe.

"It's especially gratifying to recognize the depth of the department's expertise sitting right before me. Representation from a variety of relevant disciplines is key to all future endeavors," Molino said.

### Attendees asked to make difference

He told the summit attendees that he hoped their presence would "result in new, collaborative initiatives, greater understanding and proactive, preventive

See Summit, Page 13





## Community news briefly

### Commissary posts hours

The post commissary will be open during the following days and hours for upcoming holiday periods:

**Nov. 24** – Closed for Thanksgiving

**Nov. 25** – Open normal hours

### Story times features wildlife

November's library story times will be on the wild side, with stories about foxes, wolves and coyotes.

All children and their caregivers are invited to hear a story and make a craft every Saturday, with sessions at 1:30 and 4 p.m.

On Nov. 29, "Big Wolf and Little Wolf" are singing a funny bedtime song when Mama Wolf plays a trick on them.

The library is located in Building 5306, Hood Drive. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The library is closed on Monday.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-5305.

### Center hosts orientation

The Soldier and Family Support Center will offer a spouse orientation tour of Fort Riley and the community from 8:30 a.m. to noon Nov. 25.

For more information, call 239-9435.

### Post's enlisted spouses to meet

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club will have a general membership meeting from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St., in Junction City.

Members attending have been asked to bring pictures to make a scrapbook project.

Members also are asked to bring a finger food to share with the group.

Childcare is provided. Those needing childcare should call 784-4772 to make a reservation.

### Parents council to meet Dec. 1

The Parent Advisory Council at Fort Riley meets the first Thursday of each month from 4 to 5 p.m. in the training room at Building 6620. The next meeting is Dec. 1.

Meeting agendas include program updates and parent information. For more information about the council, call 239-9850.

### Family program to host event

Fort Riley's Exceptional Family Member Program and New Parent Support Program will combine sponsorship for a holiday celebration from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Riley's Conference Center.

For more information, call Laura McCauley at 239-9435.

### Bible study offered officers

Female officers interested in Bible study but who cannot devote evenings for such study can join a noontime study group that meets every Friday at lunch in the conference room of Building 212.

Participants should bring a sack lunch.

For more information, call Capt. Jamie Peer at 239-3280 or (785) 341-9205.

### Rally Point posts entertainment

**Nov. 23** – Wing Night, 20-cent wings and dance music, 8 p.m. to close

**Nov. 24** – Dance music

**Nov. 25** – 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night and dance music 8 p.m. to close

**Wednesdays** – Krazy Karaoke and 20-cent wing night 5 to 8 p.m.

**Thursdays** – Request night

**Fridays** – Family night with movie, dance and buffet from 5 to 8 p.m. and mixed dance night from 8 p.m. to close

**Saturdays** – Hip Hop from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Sunday with DJ Monroe

**Sundays** – NFL football, six games on TV, doors open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, call Rally Point at 784-5434

### Waiting spouses schedule event

The Waiting Spouses' Group has teamed with the Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Group to provide a spouse activity day every fourth Monday of the month. Activities are scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264.

The Waiting Spouses' Group is designed to support spouses whose Soldiers are serving an unaccompanied tour. Separations for these spouses may be stressful because they and their families are left behind without the support network and regular contact that a unit or Family Readiness Group would otherwise provide.

For more information about joining the group or participating in its activities, call Lisa Mathews at 239-9435.

# Stinky pet may need vet

By Amber Haag

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN – "Smelly cat, smelly cat, what are they feeding you? Smelly cat, smelly cat, it's not your fault," sings Phoebe on the television show "Friends." But a "smelly cat" or stinky dog may actually be a sign of a bigger problem than odor.

Dr. William Fortney, assistant professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, said some odors in cats and dogs aren't normal and should be checked by a veterinarian.

"As a general rule of thumb, cats are cleaner than dogs," Fortney said. "Although we do see some cats who don't clean themselves very well or fat cats who can't clean themselves, most all dogs don't groom themselves well. They're more apt to roll in and eat dead, nasty things, like the squirrel that has been dead for a few days."

Fortney said owners shouldn't worry about all odors but should pay attention to any bad smell that doesn't seem to go away.

"Any bad smell that persists is not good," Fortney said. "If your pet smells bad one day and it's gone the next day, I wouldn't worry about it. If it persists for a week, then you should have it checked out."

Fortney said veterinarians can make the distinction between a normal smell and a smell that could signal a bigger problem.

He said it all depends on where the smell is coming from and what it smells like, something he said many owners aren't good at diagnosing themselves.

"When we ask an owner what it smells like, they usually say 'bad,'" Fortney said. "In the examination room, a veterinarian can distinguish between smells and figure out what the smell is and where it's from. But to the average owner, it just smells bad."

Fortney said one of the most common smells that persists is mouth odor, something that can

be caused by dental disease.

"There can be an infection of the mouth, such as gingivitis, causing the bad breath or just dirty teeth," Fortney said. "Both of these need to be taken care of by the vet, whether it be professionally cleaning the teeth or medicine for the infection."

The odor some pets eventually

turn up with is that of a skunk. Fortney said there are a number of products on the market made for ridding your pet of that smell, but the first thing an owner should worry about is the threat of rabies.

"Skunks are the highest carrier of rabies in Kansas. Anytime an

animal has the smell of a skunk, it obviously means it has been in close proximity to a skunk," Fortney said. "We worry about rabies in those cases, so it is always a good idea to call your vet. Check for bites and see if your pet's rabies vaccine is up-to-date, then worry about the smell."

## Dogs need cold weather care

### Staff report

The Fort Riley animal control officer suggests pet owners can take several steps to keep their pets warm and safe this winter.

Hypothermia is a common concern for humans and animals during the winter months. Inadequate shelter, lack of calories or becoming wet can be very dangerous for dogs and makes them more susceptible to hypothermia.

Shivering is an indication that pet owners should slowly warm their animals. Another key to avoiding hypothermia is hydration. Fresh water must be provided at all times.

For suggestions on how to provide pets with unfrozen water at all times, go online to Riley's Pets at [www.geocities.com/rileypets](http://www.geocities.com/rileypets).

Outside dogs must have access to a warm doghouse. Pet owners should consider providing extra straw for bedding when the doghouse is large in comparison to the dog. Straw bales left over from Halloween or Thanksgiving decorations may be an easy solution. Use the straw for the dog's house, kennel or yard. This will provide the animal with dry ground to sleep on. Layering straw outside also cuts down on the amount of mud tracked into the pet owner's home.

Outside dogs also are subjected to snow, which can become painful and restrict blood flow when

it builds up between their toes. Sidewalk ice melt, such as salt, magnesium or calcium chloride, can cause irritation to paws and be toxic when ingested. After walking on a salty area, pet owners should wipe the dog's paws off with a moist towel.

Pet owners must also take caution with antifreeze. A few teaspoons can be lethal to animals. Antifreeze spills should be cleaned up immediately. Pets should never have access to antifreeze.

Pet owners traveling during the winter months must plan for the care of their pet in advance. Reservations for health check-ups, airlines, hotels and boarding facilities should be made early on in the travel plans. If the pet owner is leaving the animal at home, a responsible sitter must be found. The sitter should become acquainted with the animal before assuming responsibility.

Older dogs can suffer from arthritis, and that may require special care to keep them comfortable during the winter months.

Pet owners also need to make certain their pets receive the proper vaccinations. Parvo is a very dangerous illness that can spread quickly and cause death, especially in younger dogs. Proper vaccinations are the best way for pet owner's to keep their dog from contracting the virus.

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ESSENTIAL FRAGRANCES  
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Photo courtesy of Fort Riley Middle School

## Honoring veterans

A member of the Junction City High School Blue Jay Battalion, Jr. ROTC, salutes as he completes a drill routine for students at Fort Riley Middle School Nov. 10. The school devoted time that day for events honoring America's veterans.

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## Summit

continued from page 11

tive interventions to make a positive difference in the lives of our youngest children."

Molino noted that military service carries a high price for servicemembers and their families. "Military families cope with many challenges that generate stress, anxiety and uncertainty," he said.

"The Department of Defense has long recognized that service to our nation places a heavy demand on families. Among the hardships continuously faced by those in uniform are frequent deployments encompassing long- and short-term separations.

"Beyond the normal impact of experiencing distance from your loved one, the level of danger involved during current deployments exacerbates the trauma," Molino added.

"It's typical for family members to experience fear regarding their loved one's safety, which can lead to anger, sadness, feelings of loneliness and isolation, and loss of emotional support," he said.

### DoD implements stress counseling

Consequently, he said, DoD has implemented a program of face-to-face, nonmedical counseling for military families experiencing the normal stress of deployments and reunions.

"This counseling," Molino noted, "which is outside the areas covered by TRICARE, includes issues such as parent and child communications, single parenting, deployment stress, financial

pressures and career and education counseling."

Such services involve early intervention in problem situations to prevent more serious problems, he said, adding that the services are available in the communities in which the families live.

### Counseling important for families

"Access to this kind of counseling is especially important for family members of those who are serving tours in Iraq and the mobilized Guard and Reserve units who may live a great distance from the programs offered on our installations," Molino said.

He said the stress currently impacting military families – from anxieties caused by the nature of the mission in hostile environments to the significant increases in frequency and length of family separations – has not been felt on this magnitude since the inception of the all-volunteer force.

"The focus of this conference is the spectrum of trauma: from lengthy, repeated, dangerous wartime deployments to re-



**"The Department of Defense has long recognized ... heavy demand on families."**

**— John M. Molino  
Deputy Undersecretary**

encountering a loved one who has sustained a severe, life-altering injury to the ultimate sacrifice – the death of a family member," he said.

"It's a national imperative to take care of our children and provide a reasonable level of normality for our families. You are the professionals who touch the lives of our babies and toddlers," Molino told the audience. "You are the professionals who will make positive change happen."

He also thanked the leaders of Zero to Three "for their outstanding dedication to military families

and their intervention to address the needs of our most vulnerable family members: infants and toddlers."

He pointed out that DoD has worked in close partnership with the national organization since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon to focus attention and improve the delivery of services and programs to babies and their families.

Zero to Three is a national organization for infants, toddlers and families dedicated to promoting the healthy development of America's babies and young children.

It believes that a child's first three years are crucial for developing intellectual, emotional and social skills and that if they aren't developed early on, the child's lifelong potential may be hampered.

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1x3 Great stanzas, great spots

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## Horseman continued from page 11

them. He worked with all kinds of horses while with the Old Guard, perhaps five to 10 different breeds, Copeland said. "We learned everything we needed to know about caring for horses and even did some of our own veterinary work."

About a year after joining the Army, Copeland bought his first horse. Since then, he estimates he's owned nearly 150 horses, most of which he sold. He owns 10 now, including a 2005 grand champion quarter horse stallion.

Poco's Tommy Boy earned that distinction Oct. 23 at the Salina show sponsored by the Kansas Foundation Quarter Horse Registry Affiliate organization.

After six years serving in the Continental United States, Copeland got orders for Hawaii. Copeland sold his horse and fig-

ured life would be beaches and surfing for the next three years. Not so. He learned that the Comstock Ranch was located near his Hawaii duty station and it wasn't long before he was back in the saddle.

### Roping consumed many free hours

Cowboying is popular in Hawaii, Copeland learned. He spent five to six nights a week roping calves. "We had a roping arena at Wheeler Airfield," he said. He also went back to training horses, this time for the owner of the Comstock Ranch. He also bought two horses before new orders sent him back to the continent.

He sold those two horses and boarded a plane for Fort Drum,

N.Y., and another experience that kept him riding toward a cowboy's life after military retirement in about another year. "I trained horses for a retired sergeant major" while at Fort Drum, Copeland said.

Serving with the 10th Mountain Division gave Copeland his first opportunity to ride horses in snow. "It was miserable," he said about the weather, but he put up with the weather so he could ride. "Otherwise, we only had four or five months of good weather to ride in," he explained.

Copeland said he owned, trained and sold 12 to 15 horses while at Fort Drum. Later, while spending three years on recruiting duty, he used his horses in community appearances, like throwing out the first ball for local ball games and such, he said.

Copeland credits Honey Bar for sealing his marital partnership with Suzanne. She rode the mare on their second date in March 2002. In August that year, a friend offered him 10 times the money he paid for Honey Bar, but when he saw how much she and her daughter loved the horse, he refused to sell the mare.

### Korea called; so did marriage

Military orders sent Copeland to Korea, so he left his pickup, trailer and horses with Suzanne, who promised she'd take care of them until he got back. He flew her to Korea so they could be married on Christmas Day, then took a mid-tour leave to go to Texas and repeat the wedding ceremony for Suzanne's family and

friends.

The Copelands have since settled in Kansas. Suzanne grew up in the Kansas City area and now teaches special education students for Geary County Unified School District 475.

"We kind of like it here," Copeland said. "Land is cheaper than in Texas" and there is a lot of horse trading, horse shows and cowboying to occupy their free time. Copeland and his 15-year-old son, Peyton, team rope.

They have a roping arena on the "ranch" they live on in Dickinson County. It's big enough to set up barrels for racing, which Suzanne's daughter, Kelsey does. Suzanne concentrates on showing their horses, which have won what sounds like a bushel basket full of prizes.

Her youngest son, Mitchell, hasn't made up his mind about horses, Copeland smiles. Sometimes he would rather be watching cartoons than riding, he added.

For Copeland, however, the future seems mapped out clearly. He wants to buy, train and sell horses, continue giving riding lessons and build a reputation for good offspring from Poco's Tommy Boy.

That might be an easy undertaking. The first time Copeland showed Poco's Tommy Boy with his first two foals — a filly and a stallion — they took top prize. In fact, eight of the 10 horses the Copelands own won every event they entered. The other two haven't been shown, but will be.

The modern cowboy's life isn't the romantic life horse lovers might dream it to be, Copeland inferred. "Horses don't feed them-

selves. There are shots to give and cuts, scrapes and bites to treat. We're on the road three of the four weekends each month for six months a year" going to shows, sales and rodeos, he said.

What obviously takes the work out of all that is the love Copeland shows while standing next to any of the horses on the "ranch." He talked quietly about doing things right from the beginning when training a new horse. As he talked, he obligingly scratched the rump of a mare that kept her rump within easy reach of the soft-spoken man with a continual grin on his face.

### Lessons learned on the job

"I've learned everything I know as I went along, and I've been fortunate to be around some good horse people," Copeland said. He translates that knowledge into a training philosophy that prevents his horses from learning bad habits.

"It only takes a horse one or two times to learn a bad habit, like getting loose after it's tied up or running away from you instead of coming to you when you enter a corral," he explained.

As he walked through the small pasture on the "ranch," almost every horse voluntarily walked up to Copeland, nuzzling him for a scratch or rub and quietly crowding others away should his attention move to another horse.

"You have to teach them that whenever you come around, what you're going to do won't hurt them," he said.

## Soldier Show continued from page 11

All nominations must include name, rank, Social Security Number, unit address, duty telephone number, e-mail address and performance specialties (singer, dancer, etc.) or technician specialties (lighting, audio, carpentry, electrical work, etc.).

Performer nominees must submit a one-half inch, VHS videocassette or DVD that demonstrates musical style, vocal range and special talents. Emphasis should be given to musical variety.

The recommended format is a spoken introduction, a minimum of two songs of contrasting styles and a segment devoted to additional talents, such as dance or instrumental performance.

Musician nominees must also submit an audiotape of good quality that meets the above specifica-

tions. Performers may include technical expertise in their resumes.

Technician nominees should submit technical experience resumes that highlight their skills in sound, lighting, construction, carpentry and stage management. Photos of past work should be included if available.

Video auditions and technical reviews will take place in January. Finalists will be notified through their respective regional headquarters. Their units and installations will receive an information copy of the notification.

Army Entertainment Division then will issue temporary duty orders for the final audition scheduled at Fort Belvoir in March. The U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center will issue attachment orders for Sol-

diers who are selected to be members of the cast and crew. Individuals who are not selected will be returned to their respective units.

Nominees must be deployable worldwide, have a minimum of 90 days time-in-service remaining after completion of the Soldier Show tour and must meet the Army's height and weight standards specified in Army Regulation 600-9.

As part of the selection process, Soldiers must provide an official Department of the Army photo, copy of their enlisted or officer records brief and their most recent Army Physical Fitness Test report.

Fitness tests should not be more than six months old. Profiles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Being attached to the show put

on by Soldiers for Soldiers isn't a vacation from the military way of life. Hurtado said individuals who are attached to AED are expected to maintain their military disciplines.

"This is a tight unit," he said about the Soldier Show cast and crew. "The teamwork that the Soldiers in the show have exhibited throughout the years is clearly indicative of the individuals in the Army."

For more information or artistic inquiries, contact Hurtado at victor.hurtado@cfsc.army.mil. Military questions should be addressed to 1st Sgt. Tarron Pierce at DSN 656-4937 or (703) 806-4937.

Jack Gillund writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs.

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SCREEN MACHINE  
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FURNITURE WAREHOUSE  
2 x 13"

Orange 2X13 Furn Warehouse





# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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## Sports news in brief

### Wrestlers place in Topeka meet

Fort Riley Middle School wrestlers competed Nov. 17 in Topeka's Northern Hills Wrestling tournament.

Jordan Fuller placed second in the 18-pound bracket. Joshua Eckel placed third at 110 pounds. Jonathon Spurlock placed fourth at 120 pounds and Jason Elzinga placed fourth at 265 pounds.

Winning one match but not placing were Austin Parton, Gunner Schritenthal, Darius Benton, Kevin Euring, Robyn Harmon and Raheem Zeno.

### Junior lifeguard program set

The Eyster Pool staff will sponsor an education program designed to provide youth ages 11 through 14 a foundation of aquatic and leadership skills preparing them for future successful completion of the Red Cross lifeguard training course.

Youth interested must be able to swim the front crawl for 25 meters while breathing to the front or side, tread water for one minute using arms and legs and submerge and swim under water for 10 feet.

Sign up begins at Eyster Pool Dec. 5. Classes will be taught from 1 to 2:30 p.m. every Saturday Jan. 7 through Feb. 25.

Cost is \$35 per person.

### Staff sponsors swim program

The Eyster Pool staff is sponsoring a "Swim for My Life" program that encourages personal fitness by swimming laps. Each participant can earn a water bottle for swimming 25 miles, a T-shirt for swimming 50 miles, a baseball cap for swimming 100 miles and a sweatshirt for swimming 200 miles.

For information on the program, call the pool staff at 239-9441.

### Swim lessons scheduled

Registration for December swim lessons is under way.

Lessons will be given Dec. 6-9 and Dec. 12-16.

The cost is \$20 per child.

Level 1 and Level 2 swimmers will be taught from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Level 3 and Level 4 swimmers will be taught from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

Water Babies and Water Tots will be taught from 5 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 239-4854 visit [www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Pool.asp](http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Pool.asp) on the Web.

### Skating rink to celebrate

Riley Wheels will be celebrating its 20th anniversary Dec. 9 with a party from 8 to 10 p.m.

Cost to skate during the anniversary party will be \$2 per person and all ages are welcome. The party will include music, games and a 9 p.m. drawing for prizes.

Pre-register for prize drawing Nov. 18-20 or Dec. 2-4.

For more information, call 239-3764

## Soldier hits hole-in-one

By Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — After making a hole in one while surrounded by professional golfers, Maj. Damon Ragsdale left the Shades of Green Armed Forces Recreation Center with a newfound appreciation for being a Soldier in the U.S. Army.

Ragsdale earned a spot in the

pro-am portion of the PGA Tour's FUNAI Classic at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., by virtue of his runner-up finish in the 2005 All-Army Golf Championships.

During his first practice round, Ragsdale aced the 165-yard, No. 6 hole on Disney's Magnolia Course.

"It landed about six inches away from the hole and just slid to

the right," he said of the 7-iron shot. "And in one bounce it dropped in, just disappeared. I couldn't tell if it hit the flagstick or if it just found the hole."

The hole-in-one made Ragsdale a mini-celebrity, prompting a weeklong parade of appreciation.

"From there on out for the entire week, even with the pros, I was known as the 'hole in one boy,'" said Ragsdale, 36, a logis-

tics officer stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

The next day, PGA Tour player Jeff Sluman gave Ragsdale a putter. They shared time on the driving range, where Ragsdale said he out-drove the pro. Word of that got back to fellow pro Frank Lickliter II, who rewarded Ragsdale with a custom driver. More golfers and manufacturer reps fol-

See *Hole-in-one*, Page 17

## Post golfer hits ace

Gordon Freeman of Fort Riley hit a hole-in-one at Rolling Meadows Golf Course Nov. 1, reports Jeremiah Carter, head golf professional at the course.

Freeman used a 6-iron to ace the 162-yard sixth hole.

## Troopers play

Trooper Samantha Hernandez (21) tries to shoot between Leprechaun defenders Rachel Karl (10) and Megan Thurlow (14) in the A team's 21-18 loss to the visiting Chapman eighth-graders Nov. 15. Watching the play develop are Troopers Victoria Hill (20) and Tara Haag (right).  
Post/Heronemus



## Chapman applies Irish charm for win

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Leprechauns visiting from Chapman charmed the Fort Riley Middle School eighth-grade A team and left post with a come-from-behind 21-18 girls' basketball victory Nov. 15.

The Troopers kept the Leprechauns to two points in the first quarter while scoring six points themselves. Carrie Denning lit up the scoreboard first for Chapman but Gabby Gadsdon scored four for the Troopers and Timbrelle Hendricks added another field goal before the period ended.

Poor passing hurt the Troopers' offensive effort and fouls sent Megan Thurlow to the line for Chapman three times in the period and three unsuccessful chances to add two points to her team's score. The Troopers escaped with a 6-2 first quarter

lead.

The Leprechauns reversed the offensive showing of both teams in the second period.

Chapman put five points on the board but kept the Troopers to two points.

Thurlow started things off for the visitors with a lay-up for two and a foul shot conversion that gave her a three-point play and moved Chapman within one point of the Troopers.

Chapman stepped up its defense with a full-court press that harried the Troopers. Brogan Britt next scored on a Leprechaun fast break and Chapman claimed a 7-6 lead against the home team.

Victoria Hill resurrected the Trooper offense temporarily with the last field goal of the half, giving her team an 8-7 lead going into the second half.

Chapman returned to the court charged up offensively and much more aggressive

defensively. The Leprechauns added 12 points to their side of the scoreboard while the Troopers managed only three points during the period.

Rebounding beneath both baskets turned furious, resulting in several tied up balls. Fouls cost the Troopers six points as the Leprechauns' marksmanship from the charity stripe improved.

The third quarter ended with Chapman ahead 19-11.

The Troopers mounted a strong offensive effort in the final period and sent Chapman reeling. The Fort Riley defense also kept the Leprechauns from shooting effectively, limiting the visitors to only two points in the period.

Three of the Troopers' seven points came from the charity line in the final period.

See *Troopers*, Page 16

## 6 Army shooters capture Olympic quotas

Army News Service

SALINAS, Puerto Rico — Six Soldiers earned medals and brought back three Olympic quota slots for the United States from shooting competition at the IX Championships of the Americas in Puerto Rico early in November.

Five Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., and an Army Reserve shooter each won at least one individual medal in the games conducted Nov. 1 to 11.

They were part of a USA Shooting team of 31 athletes in Puerto Rico for the Championships of the Americas, called the CAT Games.

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski, Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Rose and Staff Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson brought back medals in pistol shooting. Sgt. 1st Class Bret E. Erickson and Pfc. Joshua M. Richmond won medals in shotgun competition.

In Women's Sport Pistol, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Libby Callahan of Upper Marlboro, Md., walked away with the win and Olympic quota, shooting a 568 qualifying score. She finished nine points above the next competitor, Brazil's Rachel Silveira.

The CAT Games, Campeonato de Tiro de las Americas, is the shooting championships for the Western Hemisphere that is conducted every four years. The CAT Games is one of four big international matches, along with the Olympics, World Championships and Pan American Games, where shooters can win medals, set world records and win Olympic quota slots.

At the CAT games, the U.S. shooters competed against teams from North, Central, and South America for the title of being the best in the Americas.

Emily Caruso, a 2004 Olympian and Olympic Training Center resident athlete, was the first U.S. victor at the CAT Games, winning a gold medal and

See *Shooters*, Page 17

## Turkeys flourish in Kansas after reintroduction

Kansas population of birds dipped to around 110 before mid-1970s



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Today, turkeys are plentiful on Fort Riley. But it wasn't too long ago that turkeys were absent from the plains of Kansas, and most generally throughout the nation.

As with many other species of game, the wild turkey nearly succumbed to the unlimited hunting of the late 1800s and was soon gone from the state of Kansas. The last

recorded observance of a native turkey before their reintroduction was in 1871 near Fort Hays.

The history of turkeys in Kansas is well noted, and early records indicate wild turkeys occurred in large numbers throughout much of the nation.

One report from 1609 indicates that wild turkeys were "innumerable" and another from North Carolina

states reports seeing more than 500 in one flock. On July 1, 1804, near Leavenworth, Meriwether Lewis wrote, "Deer and turkeys in great quantities on the bank."

By the mid- to late-1800s, the wild turkey was at its lowest point in population. Reintroduction efforts began around the turn of the century, but few populations took hold.

The population of turkeys in the United States probably reached its lowest point in the 1930s, with very few birds remaining in the wild. In 1959, the Kansas population struggled to maintain an estimated 110 birds.

A successful turkey reintroduction program by the state began in the mid 1970s, as a wild turkey population first took hold in Southeast Kansas.

See *Wildside*, Page 16





Trooper Gabby Gadsen (right) sets to pass to teammate Samantha Hernandez (left) in a game against the Chapman eighth-grade Leprechauns Nov. 19 at Fort Riley Middle School.  
*Post/Heronemus*



## Troopers

continued from page 15

od. Hill took the ball the length of the court to boost the Troopers' score by two on a lay-up with 2:52 left in the game, and the Troopers trailed 21-15.

Tara Haag later grabbed an offensive rebound for the Troopers and went back up for two points that put the Troopers behind 21-17 and then hit a foul shot to wrap up Trooper scoring in the game.

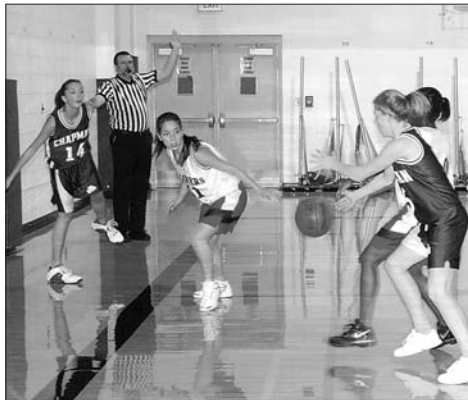
Hendricks launched a long shot at the buzzer, but it fell short of the basket and Chapman went home with a 21-18 win.

### In other games:

The B team eighth-grade girls won their third game of the season, beating Chapman 22-7 Nov. 15.

Cheyenne Schlaack, Alyssa

Fort Riley Middle School eighth-grade Trooper Alyssa Apodaca (11) whirls to pursue the inbound pass from Chapman's Megan Thurlow Nov. 19 at the Fort Riley Middle School gym.  
*Post/Heronemus*



Apodaca, Morgan Holmes, Taylor Berry, Hill and Samantha Hernandez contributed to the Troopers' score.

The seventh-grade Lady Troopers A team defeated the Eisenhower Eagles 50-11 Nov. 10.

Working the offense and playing solid team defense, the Troopers led by 19 points at halftime.

Scoring for the Troopers were Alexis Myskevish and Rebecca Dirks with two points each, Kiara Ocasio with four points, Torrenyqua McDonald with six points, Staci Holubek and Olivia Wilkerson with eight points each and Samantha Satterlee with 20 points and the game's top scoring honors.

The seventh-grade B team also defeated the Eagles. The 32-8 win was the second of the season for

the young Troopers.

Scoring for the Troopers were Myskevish and Emily Keene with two points each, Holubek with six points, Mikala Walter with 10 points and Julie Miller with 12 points and the game's top scoring honors.

The seventh-grade Troopers hosted the Leprechauns of Chapman Nov. 15 and lost both games. The A team dominated play throughout the first quarter but fell behind the Leprechauns in the second and third quarters.

The Leprechauns held the Troopers scoreless in the final period for a 33-11 win.

The B team battled aggressively during the first half and kept the score close. Down by eight at halftime, the Troopers fought their way back into the game by scoring 12 points that brought

them within three points of the lead.

Chapman switched its offensive team and pulled out in front of the Troopers during the fourth quarter, ending the game with a 26-18 win.

Trooper scoring came from Keene, Samantha Veasey, Holubek, Miller, Hillary Konken, Myskevish and Dirks.

The seventh-grade teams traveled to Abilene Nov. 17 to challenge a strong group of players. The A team Troopers struggled through the opening tip, starting sluggishly.

Working and executing their offensive plan through the first quarter, the Troopers kept themselves in the game although they trailed 7-3 at the end of the period.

They still trailed as the buzzer ended the first half of play.

Hard offensive and defensive play throughout the second half made no difference in the lead, and the Abilene squad posted a 35-12 win.

Troopers Holubek, Satterlee and McDonald scored in the game.

The B team met a similar fate, unable to capitalize on several scoring opportunities given up by Abilene.

The Troopers made a strong scoring surge in the final quarter but could not overcome Abilene's lead.

Scoring for the Troopers were Holubek, Erin Gyuran, Keene and Dirks.

Some information for this article was provided by coaches at Fort Riley Middle School.

## Wildside

continued from page 15

Their numbers grew exponentially across the state and were estimated to be at 45,000 birds in 1986.

Even then, it was somewhat rare to see a turkey in north central Kansas. Over the past two decades, repeated stockings and protective laws allowed the turkeys to increase and reclaim every corner of the state.

There are two subspecies of wild turkeys native to Kansas, the Rio Grande and Eastern.

Presently, the Rio Grandes occupy the western half of Kansas and the Eastern birds occupy the eastern quarter.

Both species occur in central Kansas, including Fort Riley.

There is a fair amount of hybridization between the two subspecies in this area. Common plumage characteristics can differentiate the two, however, with hybridization there is quite a bit of variation.

The Rio Grande is typically copper to greenish in color, especially on the breast, whereas the Eastern is purplish.

Turkeys are omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything they can catch. Their diet varies as the seasons change.

In the spring and summer, the largest percentage of their diet is made up of insects.

In the fall and winter, their diet switches to acorns, seeds and

### Want more information?

For information on turkey hunting on Fort Riley, call the Conservation Office, 239-6211, or stop by the office, Building 1020. You may also visit the office's Web site: [www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/)

green matter.

With the increased number of turkey, the season and bag limits have become quite liberal.

Turkey hunting is definitely a challenge, especially in the fall. Turkeys are generally very wary. This difficulty is compounded with all the eyes present in a large flock of turkeys.

The keys to bagging a turkey are good scouting before the season and finding good habitat and movement patterns.

The wild turkey in North America has come full circle, from near decimation to becoming, once again, a common sight in the outdoors.

The return of the wild turkey is truly a remarkable story, and with Thanksgiving just around the corner, an appropriate example of a great American symbol.

### Two-point landing



Photo by Kollin Taylor

A goose comes in for a smooth landing at Manhattan's Frank Anneberg Park with a fellow member of the flock about to land on the pond, too.

Editor's note: This photo was provided by Capt. Kollin L. Taylor of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The Post will print photos taken by Fort Riley Soldiers and family members if they are well-done and include information about the content of the photo. People in photos must be fully identified. Call the editor at 239-8854 if you have a photo you would like to share.

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Courtesy photo  
Maj. Damon Ragsdale tees up during practice for the pro-am portion of the PGA Tour's FUNAI Classic at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Ragsdale made a hole-in-one during his first practice round on the 165-yard, No. 6 hole on the Magnolia Course.

## Hole-in-one

continued from page 15

lowed with handshakes, kind words, clubs, balls, shirts and hats.

"Mr. Sluman was saying 'thank you' for our service not only to me, but to all servicemen and women," Ragsdale said. "He said, 'This is just a little token of what we can do for you compared to what you're doing for our country.'"

Ragsdale has been playing golf for only seven seasons but said this was his second hole-in-one. His first came last year at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown, Texas, where he aced the 174-yard No. 5 with a 6-iron.

That one, however, didn't have the same zing as the one recorded on a course shared by Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh.

"I can always say to my children, if I ever have any, or grandchildren that I played the same day Tiger Woods did on the same course and I beat him on a hole," Ragsdale said. "Nobody can ever take that away from me."

Armed with his new driver, Ragsdale was paired with tour pros Daniel Chopra and Brendan Jones in the first round of the pro-am. He shot par that day.

During the second round, he played with David Hearn and

Kevin Sutherland. Playing from a closer tee box, Ragsdale shot 1-under par, one stroke better than Hearn, his pro partner.

At that point, Ragsdale had visions of grandeur.

"All of a sudden, here I am hitting a hole in one and out-driving the pros and beating their scores," he recalled. "It got me thinking: 'Hey, maybe if I got the clubs fitted to me, hit balls every day, had an instructor and played with the latest technology, I might be able to do this for a living.'"

It didn't take long, however, for Ragsdale to revert to reality.

"I hit it just as far as they do, the big boys, but I also spray it left and right, unlike them, and that's the difference," he said. "That's why they can earn a paycheck doing it and why I'm a major in the Army."

Ragsdale received a standing ovation during the FUNAI Classic's pairings party for his hole-in-one and bronze medalist performance in the pro-am. He also was awarded a hole-in-one Mickey trophy.

"I was with pros I've seen on TV weekly and who I wished I could be like, and they were saying 'thank you' to me. It made me feel proud, it really did," he said.

By William Thurmond

Army News Service

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Thanks to the Army, about 300 Miami young people got the chance to meet some of NASCAR's top professionals and, maybe, hone the skills they'll need as they embark on their future careers.

As part of the U.S. Army's newest education outreach initiative, educators and students spent most of the day exploring the 01 Army Chevrolet, climbing rock walls and talking to Soldiers and business professionals about how they could transform their dreams into reality.

Among those speaking to the students were Jay Frye, chief executive officer and general manager of MB2 Motorsports, whose company builds and races the Army NASCAR Nextel Cup car. Frye discussed the types of skills required to work on a top-flight racing team.

Ryan Pemberton and Joe Nemecek, the crew chief and driver for the Army's 01 Chevrolet, joined Frye. They echoed Frye's comments and told the students about the importance of teamwork and trust in racing and the Army.

"I'm excited to teach them about what hard work and education have done for me, and hopefully we can inspire these students to reach their own potentials," Nemecek said.

Michelle Barrett, a senior at South West Miami Senior High School, demonstrates her climbing ability as she scales the high difficulty side of the simulated rock wall. The wall was part of the U.S. Army's interactive area at Homestead-Miami Speedway. U.S. Army/Thurmond



Mary Kay Runyun, Waste Management Corporation's vice president for fleet and logistics and a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and former naval officer, related how her military background paved the way for her highly successful civilian career.

Two noncommissioned officers, Sgts. 1st Class Kevin Dailey

and Spencer Swearingen, gave the young people a taste of military life from basic training to deployment, relating their personal stories and answering dozens of questions.

The students weren't shy in asking about the realities of combat. Dailey told one young woman that while he felt fear dur-

ing his two combat deployments to Iraq, he also felt confidence in his training and his fellow Soldiers, knowing that together they would be OK.

One of the students, Future Farmers of America officer Becca Hamilton, said that she liked what she learned.

"I was pretty impressed that the Army's out here supporting students, encouraging them to stick with it and follow their dreams. I was most impressed by how important teamwork is, from mechanics in the pits to the marketing specialists," Hamilton said.

Col. John Snyder, co-director of the Army's Strategic Outreach Directorate, summed up why the Army decided to sponsor this event.

"This was our first time teaming up with NASCAR and MB2 Motorsports to create an opportunity to bring in students and talk to them about setting goals for their futures," Snyder said.

"The outreach team worked hard to design a setting where interested students could hear a wide variety of successful people in racing, business and the military talk about how they got to where they are today," Snyder said.

"This event allowed the students to hear successful people talk about the need to have a vision, goals and a plan in order to achieve success in life," he said.

## Shooters

continued from page 15

an Olympic quota slot Nov. 3 in Women's Air Rifle.

Szarenski, a two-time Olympian, secured the United States its second Olympic country quota spot, finishing first in Free Pistol Nov. 5 with a total score of 641 (538 and 93). Sanderson received the bronze medal in Free Pistol, shooting a 638.4 (538 and 92.4) total score. Rose finished just short of the medal stand, plac-

ing fourth with a 636.5 (536 and 92.5).

The U.S. team of Szarenski, Sanderson and Rose received the team silver medal.

In Men's Air Pistol, however, Rose took the gold medal, placing first with a score of 680.5 and securing the United States a country quota spot. Rose had to shoot a personal best of 581 just to get into the final. He then hit a string

of seven 10s in a row in the final, finishing on top and winning his first international medal for the U.S. Shooting Team.

Szarenski finished fourth in Air Pistol with a total score of 675.2. The U.S. Team of Rose, Szarenski and Brian Beaman took the team silver medal.

In Men's Trap, Erickson, a three-time Olympian, ran away with the competition. Erickson

led by two points going into the final round with a 73. In the final, Erickson shot a 22 to finish with a 141, the gold and a country quota spot.

Richmond won the Double Trap event. There were no quota slots in Men's Doubles.

Information provided by USA Shooting and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

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## Leisuretime ideas

Get away and explore Kansas. Check out details on these and other events on the Kansas Travel & Tourism Web site, [www.travelKS.com](http://www.travelKS.com).

### Junction City:

**What:** Lighted Christmas parade. Holiday lighting of the park, chili feast, pictures with Santa and more.

**When:** Nov. 25  
**Where:** Along Sixth Street  
**Phone:** 762-2632 or 762-5525  
**Admission:** Free

### Topeka:

**What:** "Touch of Country" arts and crafts show  
**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 10; noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 11  
**Where:** Expocentre, One Expocentre Drive  
**Phone:** (785) 235-1986 or (785) 235-EXPO  
**Web site:** [www.ksexpo.com](http://www.ksexpo.com)

### Kansas City:

**What:** Woodlands Fall Futurity. What sets this race apart from any other greyhound stakes race is the greyhounds are nominated to the race by their owners while they are puppies, many before they even began formal training.

**When:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 25  
**Where:** 9700 Leavenworth Road, Kansas City, KS  
**Phone:** (913) 299-9797 or (800) 695-7223  
**Web site:** [www.woodland-skc.com](http://www.woodland-skc.com)  
**Admission:** Free

**What:** Olde World Christmas. Decorated Ethnic and Victorian trees in 118-year old Queen Ann mansion, musical performances, and St. Nick appearance.

**When:** Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 24, 2006  
**Where:** 720 N. 4th St., Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center, Kansas City, Kan.  
**Phone:** (913) 371-3264  
**Web site:** [www.strawberry-hillmuseum.org](http://www.strawberry-hillmuseum.org)  
**Admission:** \$5

### Emporia:

**What:** 28th annual Christmas parade. About 100 floats and entries designed and built by local organizations, businesses, and churches.

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Nov. 29  
**Where:** Commercial Street from 4th to 12th Avenue  
**Phone:** (620) 342-1600 or (800) 279-3730  
**Web site:** [www.emporia-chamber.org](http://www.emporia-chamber.org)  
**Admission:** Free

### Chapman:

**What:** Holiday Homes Tour. Annual tour. Tour five homes uniquely decorated for the holiday season.

**When:** 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 27  
**Where:** Throughout city  
**Phone:** (785) 922-6382  
**Web site:** [www.cityofchapman.org](http://www.cityofchapman.org)  
**Admission:** \$10

### Abilene:

**What:** Victorian Christmas at the Lebold Mansion. The old-fashioned Christmas is celebrated throughout the mansion - from cellar to attic. Christmas is ablaze at The Lebold.

**When:** Tuesday through Sunday only through Jan. 8, 2006  
**Where:** 106 N. Vine, Lebold Mansion  
**Phone:** (785) 263-4356  
**Web site:** [www.lebold-mansion.com](http://www.lebold-mansion.com)

**What:** Seebye Mansion Christmas Tours. Trees, poinsettias, and beautiful decorations are used throughout the home. Featured on HGTV Christmas castles in 2000.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 28 through Dec. 31  
**Where:** 1105 N. Buckeye  
**Phone:** (785) 263-2231 or (800) 569-5915

#### Admission varies

### Belleville:

**What:** Christmas on the Square. Downtown holiday light festival takes place on the courthouse square complete with carriage rides, Santa Claus, and retail window guessing games.

**When:** 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 26  
**Where:** Downtown  
**Phone:** (785) 527-2310 or (866) 527-2355  
**Web site:** [www.bellevilleks.org](http://www.bellevilleks.org)

**Admission:** Free

### Wichita:

**What:** Illuminations, A Holiday Festival Of Lights At The Gardens. Thousands of luminaria and holiday lights make the paths of Botanica glow as seasonal music fills the air.

**When:** 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 25 and 26  
**Where:** 701 Amidon, Botanica, The Wichita Gardens  
**Phone:** (316) 264-0448  
**Web site:** [www.botanica.org](http://www.botanica.org)  
**Admission:** \$6

### Herington:

**What:** Santa Workshop. Crafters, food, and Santa comes to town.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26

**Where:** Herington Community Building  
**Phone:** (785) 258-2115  
**Web site:** [www.skyways.org/towns/Herington](http://www.skyways.org/towns/Herington)  
**Admission:** Free

### Wamego:

**What:** Lighted Christmas parade and park lighting celebration.

**When:** 7 p.m. Nov. 28  
**Where:** Downtown and City Park  
**Phone:** (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346  
**Web site:** [www.wamegochamber.com](http://www.wamegochamber.com)  
**Admission:** Free

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# Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

## Leisuretime ideas

### At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

**Nov. 25** – Wallace & Gromit: Curse of Were-Rabbit (G)

**Nov. 26** – History Of Violence (R)

**Nov. 27** – Wallace & Gromit: Curse of Were-Rabbit (G)

**Dec. 1** – Domino (R)  
For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Get away and explore Kansas. Check out details on these and other events on the Kansas Travel & Tourism Web site, [www.travelKS.com](http://www.travelKS.com).

### Salina:

**What:** "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," documentary movie rated G. The movie is about the birds and a man who has spent years studying them and coming to love them. Mark Bittner, an intelligent, articulate man who has been homeless for 15 years obviously shares an affinity for the displaced birds. He comes across as an engaging, likeable fellow with an appealing outlook on life. By the movie's end, filmgoers may find themselves just as absorbed and enthralled by the problems and conflicts of Bittner's avian family.

**When:** 5 and 7 p.m. Nov. 24 and 25; 2, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Nov. 26; 2, 5 and 7 p.m. Nov. 27; 5 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 28, 29 and 30.

**Where:** Art Cinema Center, 150 S. Santa Fe

**Phone:** (785) 452-9868  
**Web site:** [cinema@salinaartcenter.org](http://cinema@salinaartcenter.org)

**Cost:** \$7 for nonmembers, \$5 for shows beginning before 6 p.m.

**What:** "Saraband," Swedish movie rated R. Twenty-five years after Ingmar Bergman's "Scenes from a Marriage," "Saraband" catches up with the protagonists, Marianne played by Liv Ullmann and Johan, played by Erland Josephson, and provides a gentle, melancholy coda to Bergman's own life and career. "Saraband" is everything Bergman is revered for: simplicity, directness, understated drama and psychological and philosophical insight.

**When:** 5 and 7:10 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2; 2, 5, 7:10 and 9 p.m. Dec. 3; 2, 5 and 7:10 p.m. Dec. 4; 5 and 7:10 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6

**Where:** Art Cinema Center, 150 S. Santa Fe

**Phone:** (785) 452-9868  
**Web site:** [cinema@salinaartcenter.org](http://cinema@salinaartcenter.org)

**Cost:** \$7 for nonmembers, \$5 for shows beginning before 6 p.m.

### Lawrence:

**What:** Bizarre Bazaar. Annual event features over 100 local and area artists. Shop one-of-a-kind, handmade works that range from contemporary to bazaar. Two stages feature music by area musicians.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26

**Where:** 940 New Hampshire, Lawrence Arts Center  
**Phone:** (785) 843-2787

**Web site:** [www.lawrenceartscenter.com](http://www.lawrenceartscenter.com)  
**Admission:** Free

## More nonsense

The Reverend Mother, Sister Mary Regina (left), played by Angie Hook; Sister Mary Hubert (center), played by Custer Hill Elementary School teacher Megan Myrick; and Sister Robert Ann, played by Janice Dowell, harmonize about the season and the feeling of "Nonsense" the Little Sisters of Hoboken have at the Mount Saint Helens School. They were rehearsing the opening number for "Nuncrackers" at the Junction City Little Theatre.

*Post/Heronemus*



### If you go:

**What:** "Nuncrackers"  
**When:** 8 p.m. Nov. 25 and 26; 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Dec. 4

**Where:** Junction City Little Theatre, 18th Street near Buffalo Soldier Memorial

**Cost:** \$12 for adults, \$7 for students  
**Phone:** 238-6220



*Post/Heronemus*

Jordan Heath (front) and Jordan Biggs, playing children attending the Mount Saint Helens School, sing along with Sister Mary Annette (the puppet) during rehearsal of "Nuncrackers" Nov. 17.

## Little theater group stages musical about convent-tional Christmas

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

"Nuncrackers" is a lot more of "Nonsense" nonsense, and that means the audience will be in stitches with laughter when not enjoying the musical numbers that lift the heart when the Junction City Little Theatre opens its second production of the season Nov. 25.

The Little Sisters of Hoboken have decided to go on the air with their first television program at Christmastime in this Dan Goggins sequel to the earlier popular stage production about the Catholic sisters inhabiting the Mount Saint Helens School and convent in New Jersey.

And why not a television show? The convent's surviving sisters — Sister Julia apparently had accidentally killed off 52 members of the convent with soup she had prepared for one of their meals — have the talent to carry it off.

The Reverend Mother, played by Angie Hook, grew up in a circus family. Sister Mary Paul, a.k.a. Amnesia, was a country music singer.

Sister Robert Ann dreams of being in the spotlight and is often caught on stage doing something she's not supposed to

do or offering to take the leading role in any and all parts of the production. Sister Mary Leo also is excited about being in the show. She dreams of being the first famous nun ballerina.

Mix all the mishaps of putting on their first television show with a mys-

tery about missing Christmas presents, the lost memory of Sister May Paul and some very entertaining music and the result is entertainment that will kick off the holiday season with a warm feeling and a smile glowing from inside each person in the audience.

**The Reverend Mother of Mount Saint Helens Convent, Played by Angie Hook, sings about the circus family Christmases she experienced as a child.**

*Post/Heronemus*



## Musical 'Christmas Carol' coming to McCain

By Jennifer Newberry  
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN — "A Christmas Carol — A Sparkling New Musical" will be performed at Kansas State University at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29, in McCain Auditorium.

This adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic play will be performed with a new musical twist. The story has a simple message, selfless giving, which is demonstrated by the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge is a miserable person

who goes through a series of revelations. After revisiting his childhood, seeing the present holiday season and seeing what his own future might hold, Scrooge jumps at the chance to redeem himself and spread Christmas cheer.

"A Christmas Carol" will be performed by Troupe America

Inc., which is on its 10th anniversary national tour.

The set designer is Larry Kaushansky. The music is composed by Kevin Rottly, who also has created the original music for the national tours of "A Legend of St. Nicholas" and "Miracle on 34th Street."

The script has been adapted by Buffy Sedlachek, prize-winning playwright from The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.k-state.edu/mccain](http://www.k-state.edu/mccain) or by calling the McCain box office between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.

